Reconstruction of Tsunami hit areas

*45. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI
BARUPAL. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has decided to monitor reconstruction of Tsunami hit areas and has also been told to garner foreign aid to finance rehabilitation operations;

(b) if so, whether this group has started working from January, 2005;

(c) whether this group would comprise officials and experts who have experience in disaster management;

(d) whether this group would explore areas where multilateral agencies like World Bank and ADB can be requested to help;

(e) if so, to what extent this panel has been helpful to garner foreign aid; and

(f) what are the concrete plans prepared for starting rehabilitation work in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) Planning Commission has set up a Core Group to monitor re-construction of Tsunami hit areas. The Group comprises of a Chief Coordinator as Chairman of the Group along with the nodal officials nominated by the concerned Ministries responsible for implementation fo the Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme. The group is empowered to invite experts and specialists for any assistance/advice. The Group has started functioning from January, 2005.

(d) and (e) The Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance with the assistance of the Core Group is exploring areas to garner foreign aid to fianance rehabilitation operations with multilateral agencies like the World Bank and the ADB. The process of finalizing the level of foreign aid and loans from these agencies is under negotiation.

(0 The Core Group is developing a comprehensive reconstruction programme for the Tsunami affected areas in consultation with States of

Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Union Territories of Pondicherry and A&N Islands Administration and the Concerned Central Government Ministries. The implementation of the Tsunami Rehabilitations Programme will be carried out by the concerned State Governments and local administrations with the Participation of the Concerned Central Ministries/ Departments and NGQs. The Core Group will coordinate, monitor and provide expert advice.

Development of coir industry

*46. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to develop coir industry;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan indicating the amount that would be invested in the sector; and

(c) the number of jobs that would be generated as a result thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Sir, the Government has been implementing several schemes over the year to develop the coir industry.

(b) with a view to assisting the coir sector in increasing production of coir products, enhancing their productivity, accelerating exports and generating additional employment, the Coir Board, a statutory organization set up under the Coir Industry Act, 1953 has been implementing the following programmes/schemes:

(i) For development of production infrastructure, financial assistance is provided for setting up new coir units at the rate of 25 per cent of the cost of machinery, subject to a' maximum of Rs. 1.5 lakh.

(ii) Financial assistance for promoting domestic market for coir through publicity measures, Market Development Assistance to units in the cooperative and public sector, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, maintenance of Coir Board Showrooms & Sales Depots to supply quality products at standard prices.